

## Message Text

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53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 034125

O 281040Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1604

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1215

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: CISCO II - DISCUSSION WITH CAMPBELLS

1. IN ACCORDANCE THEIR REQUEST AND PARA 1 STATE 098179,  
AMBASSADOR MET WITH BOTH CAMPBELLS AND ENGLISH JOURNALIST  
GWYNNE ROBERTS EARLY APRIL 28. AMBASSADOR BEGAN BY STRESSING  
THAT WHAT HE WOULD HAVE TO SAY MUST REMAIN ENTIRELY OFF THE  
RECORD AND THAT HE COULD ONLY CONTINUE OF ROBERTS AGREED THAT  
HE WAS PRESENT AS FRIEND OF CAMPBELLS AND NOT IN HIS CAPACITY  
AS JOURNALIST. ROBERTS IMMEDIATELY AGREED.

2. CAMPBELLS WERE THEN ADVISED THAT WE HAVE HAD NUMBER  
ENCOURAGING INDICATIONS IN LAST TEN DAYS OF IMMINENT PROGRESS  
ON CISCO II CASE, INCLUDING FONMIN MAKKAWI'S STATEMENT TO  
AMBASSADOR APRIL 27 (KHARTOUM 1199). LEN CAMPBELL SAID  
THIS LATEST INFO WOULD NEED BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED AS  
GROUP HAD BEEN PLANNING DEPART FOR PORT SUDAN BY RAIL IN NEXT  
FEW DAYS. FROM PORT SUDAN, JOURNALIST ROBERTS AND PHOTOGRAPHER  
DOWNEY WERE TO PROCEED OVERLAND INTO ERITREA TO ATTEMPT SHOW  
ROBERT'S FILM TO PLF LEADERSHIP. HOPE WOULD BE TO CONVINCE PLF  
CONTINUED DETENTION HOSTAGES COULD ONLY HAVE ADVERSE IMPACT  
ON PLF IMAGE ABROAD AS WELL AS EFFORTS CHARITABLE AGENCIES  
ASSIST ERITREAN REFUGEES. ROBERTS SAID HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH  
WITH NUMBER OF PLF MILITARY TYPES SINCE ARRIVAL KHARTOUM, AND  
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THAT ISAIAS AFEWORK HAD RETURNED INSIDE ERITREA APPROXIMATELY

TEN DAYS AGO. STRESSING POOR COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN KHARTOUM AND PORT SUDAN, AMBASSADOR NOTED IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF MAJOR BREAK OCCURRED IN CASE AND GROUP COULD NOT PROMPTLY BE INFORMED. CAMPBELLS AND ROBERTS AGREED TO DISCUSS AMONG THEMSELVES WHETHER THEY SHOULD POSTPONE THEIR DEPARTURE FOR PORT SUDAN FOR FEW DAYS PENDING POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENTS IN CASE HERE. THEY AGREED LET EMBASSY KNOW THEIR DECISION APRIL 29.

3. CAMPBELLS MADE NO REQUEST FOR FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE IN SEEING ANY GOS OFFICIALS SO THIS SUBJECT DID NOT ARISE. BREWER

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## Message Attributes

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